Steep price rise of sugar and pulses

†1728. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been steep rise in the price of pulses and sugar due to drought and low production in the country;

(b) the percentage of increase in prices of pulses and sugar during last four months;

(c) the quantum of pulses and sugar sanctioned by Government to be imported from foreign countries;

(d) the names of agencies that imported these items and at what rates; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to control the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the last four months, the All India average wholesale prices has increased in the case of Sugar by 28.07%, Pulses such as Tur dal by 23.97%, Gram by 4.55% respectively.

(c) As regards pulses and sugar, the Central Government is not undertaking their import. Export/import of sugar is undertaken by the sugar mills/merchant exporters-importers as per their commercial prudence.

The four PSUs, *viz.* MMTC, PEC, STC and NAFED are authorized by the Government to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses and sell them in domestic market as per their procedure.

(d) The details of the importing agencies, the quantity of sugar imported, and rates etc., are not maintained by the Government. The 4 PSUs have contracted imports of different pulses at different times at different rates. The quantity of pulses imported by the 4 PSUs and the rates during 2009-10 are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(e) The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities such as pulses and sugar are given in Statement-II.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Import of Pulses and the rates during year 2009-2010

Quantity in MTs

Rate: USD/PMT

Name of 4 PSU's	URAD		Red Lentils		Yellow Lentils		African Tur		Yellow Peas		Toor		Moong		Chick Peas		Dunn Peas	
	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price
STC	4994	490	3500	895	1390	822	3000	1003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MMTC	1030	890	2000	921	—	—	—	—	—	—	26000	1011-1204	960	877	—	—	—	—
NAFED	9550	632.89	—	—	—	—	—	—	97254	458.40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PEC	29465.80	559.00-1199.9		659.22-915.00	6243	775-850	—	—	—	—	107913	675.00-1221.00	13950	749.90-918.89	22889.32	434.22-656.20	1000	391

Source: 4 PSUs.

Statement-II

Government Measures to check the prices of pulses and sugar are briefly stated below:

1. **Fiscal Measures**

(i) Reduced import duties to zero-for sugar, pulses.

(ii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. up to 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.12.2010. Furthermore, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31.12.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis.

(iii) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED up to 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended upto 31.3.2010. Furthermore, the duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies.

(iv) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

2. **Administrative Measures**

(v) Banned export of pulses (except kabuli chana).

(vi) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of pulses, sugar, upto 30.9.2010.

(vii) Futures trading in urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and continues during 2009-10. Futures trading in sugar was suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.

(viii) To augment availability of pulses, permitted the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED to import and sell pulses under a scheme and the losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.

(ix) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg to State Governments.

(x) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009

(xi) For the month of Nov, 2009 a quantity of 15.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar has been made available which includes 10.50 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 1.45 lakh tons of refined raw sugar imported by sugar mills. The estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.50 lac ton. Besides, the validity period of Oct. 2009 non-levy quota has since been extended for the first fortnight up to 25.10.2009 and for the second fortnight upto 10.11.2009, it is expected about 1.55 lakh ton of sugar would be spill over quota of Oct. 09.